UPDATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS POLICY

(Updated 8/28/20)

Effective today, Nationwide Children’s will no longer restrict employee travel to destinations within the United States.

Restrictions remain on:

- Travel to all international destinations, except Canada, and
- Travel by cruise ship.

The moratorium on hospital-paid travel remains in place.

Employee group travel, during which multiple hospital staff are unable to social distance for long periods of time, should be avoided. The hospital may not pay staff who are quarantined following deliberate or egregiously risky behavior inconsistent with the hospital’s guidelines for using masks, avoiding large groups, and ensuring social distance.

Any staff member, either working onsite or remotely from home, who does not follow the travel policy, must contact Employee Health Services COVID-19 Call Center at (614) 355-4135, option 1 upon their return and then quarantine for two weeks. Staff who are quarantined for not following the travel policy are required to use PTO before being permitted to be AWOP (absent without pay) during their time away, per Paid Time Off Policy B-1, regardless of if they are working onsite or remotely from home.

IMPORTANT: The risk of COVID-19 infection remains higher in many other places than it does in central Ohio. Hospital staff are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to avoid any COVID-19 hotspots when traveling. These locations can be identified using the resources below:

a. Ohio counties with high rates of infection as identified by the Ohio Department of Health’s Public Health Advisory system found here.

b. States with high rates of infection as identified by Ohio Department of Health, located here on its website and updated weekly, and;

c. Counties across the United States with high rates of infection, as identified by the Nationwide Children’s Department of Epidemiology, located here and updated weekly. US counties are classified according to incidence rates relative to Franklin County by the following color codes:

LOWER  MEDIUM  HIGH  VERY HIGH
Nationwide Children’s staff are also **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to avoid large groups at all times while traveling. Examples include, but are not limited to, large weddings or family reunions, bars, amusement parks, etc.

As a children’s hospital caring for a large number of medically vulnerable children, we must maintain the highest standards of safety to protect them and each other, therefore, we continue to maintain responsible policies for official and personal travel.

*For important guidance on how to conduct travel safely, please consult this [fact sheet](#).*

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